DCS

2000

27 Nov 78
0940 hours

MEMO FOR: MAJ G.

RE: Cremation of Guyana Victims

I spoke with Mr. Harold Smith, Base Contracting Officer, who advised me as follows:

Although Base Procurement has had no direct contact with the State Dept., Mr. Carson, our base mortuary officer, apparently is in contact with State and is passing on State's requests to base procurement. Our locally procured mortuary contract with Ford Funeral Service, Inc., of Wilmington, DE, which is a requirements contract running from 1 Oct 78 thru 30 Sep 79, will be the basis for any outside work involving the Guyana victims. Already the type caskets to be used with these bodies has been changed at the request of State. A cheaper model is to be used. The change was given to Mr. Ford on last Wednesday. He will handle all mortuary services, be it for burial or for cremation. The present contract covers disposition by cremation as ordered by the base. There are two crematories in DE covered under the contract. One in Wilmington and the other in Lewes. We direct which one to use. If cremation is desired, the contract already covers the procedure and the rates involved (adults and children) and will not require any change order or contract modification. Mr Ford is aware of the requirements and is gearing up to use other undertakers and funeral facilities (as subcontractors) to accomplish the job. In fact, when the Canary Island victims were processed thru DAFB, Mr Ford was one of the subcontractors who assisted the primary contractor (a Dover firm) at that time. Mr. Smith has been in touch with HQ MAC on this and they agree that all requirements must be funneled through Mr Ford's contract. Being familiar with the specifications of this contract, I also agree.

Of course, the funding for all this presumably will come from State Dept. The rates for various services are covered under the contract. Any change in these (up or down) would have to be handled by way of a Change Order and/or Modification (as in the case of the cheaper caskets). Mr Ford has yet to submit a voucher to cover any of the services performed to date on the Guyana victims.

L. LeComte

L. LeComte

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE _____
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